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USSR steps up CIA-terror charges

Moscow (UPI)—The Soviet Union today stepped up charges that the United States was the major terrorist power in the world and said the CIA was behind a series of assassinations, including the murders of President John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert.

The Soviet attacks followed charges last week by Secretary of State Haig that the Kremlin was training, funding and equipping international terrorists and by President Reagan that the Soviets are bent on an international Communist state.

The official Tass news agency, in commentaries last night and today, said the Reagan administration was using the charges to launch "a new anti-Soviet hostile campaign."

"Any allegations about the Soviet Union's involvement in terroristic activities represent a gross and malicious deception," Tass said. "They cannot but cause feelings of indignation and legitimate protest in the Soviet people."

In the first commentary last night, Tass charged that the CIA had assassinated the Kennedy brothers, Martin Luther King Jr., former Congo leader Patrice Lumumba, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana,

Chilean leader Salvador Allende and former Italian Premier Aldo Moro.

But the news agency today omitted the Moro charge, possibly in response to quick denials from Italian political leaders. Even the Italian Communist Party newspaper L'Unita chided the Kremlin in an editorial titled, "Let's Stick to the Facts."

Tass said the charges by the Reagan White House that the Kremlin is at the center of international terrorist activity are "unbridled slander . . . anti-Soviet psychosis."

The agency said that "it will not be difficult to discover the center that controls international terrorism."

"It is an open secret that whenever various circles resort to terror in this or that area of the world, the tracks of the criminals lead to the United States, and first of all to the Central Intelligence Agency . . . which is the main center for the organization of terror, subversion and provocations."

The Soviet agency's 1,600-word commentary traced a tale of relentless terror during the last 20 years, with all of the crimes allegedly carried out by the CIA.